

Michael F. Easley
Governor



State of North Carolina
Office of the Governor

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N.C. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE EARNS NATIONAL RECOGNITION

RALEIGH — *Site Selection* magazine, one of the nation's leading journals on economic development, has named the N.C. Department of Commerce's Business & Industry Development Division to its annual list of the country's top 10 economic-development groups.

"In a challenging year for economic development nationwide, North Carolina's economic development's efforts have continued to grow," said Gov. Mike Easley. "It is incumbent upon us, especially during these times of economic uncertainty, to continue our investments in education that create the skilled workforce to attract quality companies to North Carolina and allow our existing businesses to expand."

According to *Site Selection* editor Mark Arend, the criteria for selection in the 2001 rankings included capital investment in the area served by the organization, new jobs created, capital investment per capita population and new jobs created per 100,000 people.

"We pride ourselves on offering an excellent environment for top-quality companies around the nation and the world," Commerce Secretary Jim Fain said today. "Economic development is a team sport and I am grateful for the people who work so hard in collaboration with our partners across the state to bring new jobs and investment to North Carolina."

North Carolina's corporate investment totaled at least \$7 billion last year. More than 750 companies are estimated to have located or expanded in North Carolina, creating at least 36,000 new jobs.

The complete list of honorees appears in the May issue of the magazine. Also named was the Mooresville-South Iredell (N.C.) Chamber of Commerce.

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